

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L COPENHAGEN 3155

USNMR SHAPE FOR GENERAL HAIG

EO 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: STILL NO NEW DEFENSE AGREEMENT

REF: COPENHAGEN 3044 DTG 101637Z SEP 76 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: A STRENUOUS EFFORT OVER THE WEEKEND TO REACH A
NEW DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT FAILED AND THE BALL HAS BEEN
PASSED TO THE PRIME MINISTER. APPARENTLY THE SIX PARLIA-
MENTARY PARTIES INVOLVED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS WERE IN SUB-
STANTIAL ACCORD IN ALL RESEPECTS EXCEPT ON THE EXTENT OF
FUNDING CUTS. AND EVEN HERE THE DIFFERENCES ARE NOT TOO FAR
APART.
END SUMMARY.

1. NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE SIX PARLIAMENTARY PARTIES
WHICH HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN ATTEMPTING TO WORK OUT A NEW
DANISH DEFENSE AGREEMENT REACHED A CLIMAS LAST WEEKEND
WITHOUT, HOWEVER, ARRIVING AT AN UNDERSTANDING. THE
FAILURE CAME AFTER A MEETING AMONG REPRESENTATIVES OF
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THESE PARTIES - THE "COMMITTEE OF 12" - WHICH BEGAN AT

NOON ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, AND LASTED UNTIL 0430 SUNDAY MORNING. THE BALL HAS NOW BEEN PLACED IN PRIME MINISTER ANKER JORGENSEN'S OWN COURT FOR THE NEXT PLAY.

2. FROM PRESS REPORTS AND EMBASSY AND DAO CONTACTS, IT APPEARS THAT AGREEMENT AMONG THE PARTIES WAS REACHED ON A NEW COMPROMISE OF SIX-YEARS DURATION THAT WOULD GO INTO EFFECT ON APRIL 1, 1977, AT THE EXPIRATION OF THE CURRENT, FOUR-YEAR AGREEMENT. FORCE GOALS AND CONSCRIPT DURATION (NINE MONTHS) WOULD REMAIN UNCHANGED. INCREASES IN ENLISTED MEN'S PAY WOULD BE FUNDED OUTSIDE THE DEFENSE BUDGET. FOUR OF THE SIX PARTIES (THE CONSERVATIVES, THE LIBERALS, THE CENTER DEMOCRATS AND THE CHRISTIANS), HOWEVER, WOULD NOT ACCEPT CUTS IN THE DEFENSE FUNDING OF THE MAGNITUDE PROPOSED BY THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND PRESUMABLY ACCEPTABLE TO THE RADICAL PARTY. (THE RADICALS, SOMEWHAT CURIOUSLY, APPEARED TO HAVE PLAYED LITTLE OR NO ROLE IN THE WEEKEND DISCUSSIONS.)

3. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS PROPOSED A CUTBACK OF DKR 463 MILLION (ABOUT \$77 MILLION) OVER THREE YEARS. THE FOUR PARTIES HELD OUT FOR A CUT OF NO MORE THAN DKR 270 MILLION (ABOUT \$45 MILLION) OVER TWO YEARS.

4. IF THE PARTIES FAIL TO REACH AN AGREEMENT BEFORE THE BUDGET BILL IS INTRODUCED UPON THE RECONVENTION OF FOLKETING IN EARLY OCTOBER, THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS' DEFENSE SPENDING PROPOSALS WOULD BE TABLED AS PART OF THE BUDGET FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING APRIL 1, 1977. THE BETTING HERE IS THAT AN EXTRA-PARLIAMENTARY DEFENSE AGREEMENT WILL, IN FACT, BE REACHED BEFORE THAT TIME. THERE IS STRONG PRESSURE ON ALL SIX OF THE PARTIES TO AVOID OPENING UP THE DEFENSE ISSUE TO GENERAL PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE. THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS MUST CONTINUE TO PAY HEED TO THE SENSITIVITIES OF THEIR OWN LEFT WING ON DEFENSE, AND PART OF WHAT HAPPENED OVER THE WEEKEND MAY HAVE BEEN DESIGNED TO FORTIFY ANKER JORGENSEN IN DEALING WITH HIS LEFT FLANK.

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5. WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE AS TO WHETHER OR NOT THE COLLECTIVE ACTIONS OF OURSELVES AND NATO HAVE HAD MUCH DIRECT EFFECT ON DANISH PARLIAMENTARY ELEMENTS WHO WANT TO PARE DOWN DANISH DEFENSE SPENDING MORE RATHER THAN LESS. ON THE OTHER HAND, WE WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT DEFENSE MINISTER ORLA MOLLER'S VISIT TO THE U.S. AND CALL THIS

SUMMARY ON SECDEF RUMSFELD AND THE RECENT
VISITS HERE OF GENERAL HAIG, DR. CURRIE AND
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE REED, HAVE ALL BEEN
INSTRUMENTAL IN STIFFENING THE SPINE OF THE ADVOCATES OF
MAINTAINING DANISH DEFENSE EXPENDITURES NEAR EXISTING
LEVELS.
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